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By Mr. T O W N,

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*Scilicet expectes, ut tradet mater boneflos
Atque alios mores, quam quos habet ipsa?— Juv.*

To Mr. T O W N.

SIR,

 REMEMBER, in a match between two persons of different religions, it was stipulated in the marriage articles, that the boys should be bred up in the persuasion of the father, and the girls in that of the mother. The consequence of this was, that one part of the family was taught to look upon the other with a most pious contempt; and in the end it produced a separation. The sons followed the example of their father, and in order to avoid the least appearance of superstition and bigotry, turned out free-thinkers: the lady of the house retired with her daughters

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to *France*, and to preserve them from a communication with heretics confined them in a nunnery.

THE like method seems to be observed in the general education of children; who as soon as they leave the nursery, are resigned over to the care and direction of their respective parents according to their sex: whence it often happens, that families are as much distinguished by their peculiar manners, as by a certain cast of features or complexion. My young 'squire is put upon a little horse before he can well walk, and becomes (as his father was before him) the pupil and companion of the groom and the game-keeper: And if miss's mamma should chance to be the daughter of a poor man of quality, and the wife of a substantial tradesman, the little lady is early instructed to value herself on her blood, and to despise her father's dirty connections with business.

To this method of education it is owing, that the same vices and follies are delivered down from one generation to another. The modish excesses of these times are in their nature the same with those which were formerly in vogue, though they differ somewhat in their shape and appearance. The present race of bucks, bloods, and freethinkers, are but the spawn of the *Mobocks* and the *Hell-Fire Club*: and if our modern fine ladies have had their *Masquerades*, their *Vauxhalls*, their *Sunday Tea Drinkings* at *Ranelagh*, and their *Morning Chocolate* in the *Hay-Market*, they have only improved upon the *Ring*, the *Spring-Gardens*, the *New-Exchange Assignations*, and the *Morning Puppet-shew*, which employed the attention of their grandmothers: and as it is not apparent that our people of fashion are more wicked, so neither are they wiser than their predecessors.

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WHEN I contemplate the manner in which the younger part of the polite world is brought up, I am apt to carry my reflections farther than what merely concerns their own persons. Let our young men of fashion expose their ignorance abroad, rather than improve at our Universities at home ; — let them trifle away their Time in insipid amusements, and run loose about the town in one continued round of extravagance and debauchery ; — let our young ladies be taught nothing but gallantry and whist, and be seen only at routes and assemblies, if the consequence extend not beyond themselves. But as these are to be the fathers and mothers, the guardians and tutors, on whom the morals of our next race must depend ; it becomes a public concern, lest the reign of vice and ignorance should be supported, as it were, by hereditary succession, and propagated to distant generations.

THE modern method of education is indeed so little calculated to promote virtue and learning, that it is almost impossible the children should be wiser or better than their parents. The country squire seldom fails of seeing his son as dull and awkward a looby as himself ; while the debauched or foppish man of quality breeds up a rake or an empty coxcomb, who brings new diseases into the family, and fresh mortgages on the estate. If you would therefore favour us, Mr. TOWN, with a few remarks on this subject, you would do service to posterity : for the present give me leave to illustrate what I have said by the example of a very fashionable family.

LADY BELLE MODELY was one of the finest women in the last reign, as the Colonel her husband was one of the smartest fellows. After they had astonished the world singly with the *eclat* of their actions, they came together : her ladyship

ladyship was proud of fixing a man who was thought to have intrigued with half the women of fashion ; while the Colonel fell a sacrifice to her beauty, only because she was admired by every body else. They lived together for some time in great splendor ; but as matrimony was a constraint upon their freedom, they at length parted by a private agreement. Lady BELLE keeps the best company, is at the head of every party of pleasure, never misses a masquerade, and has card-tables constantly at her own house on Sundays. The Colonel is one of the oldest members of the Club at *White's*, runs horses at *Newmarket*, has an actress in keeping, and is protected from the impertinence of duns, by having purchased a seat in parliament at almost as great an expence as would have satisfied the demands of his creditors.

THEY have two children : the one has been educated by the direction of his father, the other has been bred up under the eye of her mamma. The boy was indeed put to a grammar-school for a while ; but *Latin* and *Greek* or indeed any language except *French*, are of no service to a gentleman : and as the lad had discovered early marks of spirit, (such as kicking down wheel-barrows and setting old women on their heads,) the Colonel swore *Jack* should be a soldier and accordingly begged a pair of colours for him, before he was fifteen. The Colonel who had served only in the peaceful campaigns of *Covent Garden*, took great pains to instil into *Jack* all that prowess so remarkable in the modern heroes of the army. He enumerated his victories over bullies, his encounters with sharpers, his midnight skirmishes with constables, his storming of bagnio's, his imprisonment in round-houses, and his honourable wounds in the service of prostitutes. The Captain could not fail of improving under so excellent a tutor, and soon became as eminent

eminent as his father. He is a Blood of the first rate; *Sherlock* has instructed him in the use of the broad sword, and *Broughton* has taught him to box. He is a fine Gentleman at assemblies, a sharper at the gaming-table, and a bully at the bagnios. He has not yet killed his man in the honourable way; but he has gallantly crippled several watchmen, and most courageously run a drawer through the body. His scanty pay will not allow him to keep a mistress; but it is said that he is privately married to a woman of the town.

SUCH is the consequence of the son's education; and by this our people of distinction may learn, how much better it is to let a lad see the world (as the phrase is) than to lash him through a grammar-school like a parish-boy, and confine him with dull pedants in a college cloister. Lady *BELLE* has not been less careful of her daughter Miss *HARIOT*. Those who undertake the business of educating polite females have laid it down as a rule to consider women merely as Dolls; and therefore never attempt the cultivation of their principles, but employ their whole attention on adorning their persons. The romantic notions of honour and virtue are only fit for poor awkward creatures, who are to marry a shopkeeper or a parson, but they can be of no use to a fine girl who is design'd to make a figure. Accordingly Miss *HARIOT* was committed to the care of *Madame Governante* who never suffered her to speak a word of *English*, and a *French* dancing-master who taught her to hold up her head, and come into the room like a little lady. As she grew up, her mamma instructed her in the nicest points of ceremony and good breeding: she explained to her the laws and regulations of dress; directed her in the choice of her brocades, told her what fashions best became her, and what colours best suited her complexion. These excellent rules were constantly enforced

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by examples drawn from her ladyship's own practice: above all, she unravelled the various arts of gallantry and intrigue; recounted the stratagems she had herself employed in gaining new conquests, taught her when to advance and when to retreat, and how far she might venture to indulge herself in certain freedoms without endangering her reputation.

MISS HARRIOT soon became the public admiration of all the pretty fellows, and was allowed to be a lady of the most elegant accomplishments. She was reckoned to play a better game at Whist than Mrs. Sharply, and bets with more spirit at Brag than the bold Lady Atall. She was carried about to *Tunbridge*, *Bath*, *Chesterham*, and every other place of diversion by the mother; where she was exposed as at a public mart for beauty, and put up to the best bidder. But as Miss had some fortune in her own disposal, she had not the patience to wait the formal delays of marriage articles, jointures, settlements, and pin-money; and (just before the late Act took place) eloped with a gentleman, who had long been very intimate with her mamma, and recommended himself to MISS HARRIOT by a stature of six foot and a shoulder-knot.

I am, sir, your humble servant, &c.

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